(b) an (c) The details of cost over- runs of the above projects are as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Project	Latest Sanctioned cost (Date of Sanction)	Lates Estimate (Yet to be Approved)	Remarks
Narora 1 & 2	399.64 (April 1983) IDC	645.00+ 100.00	The project is completed and Unit 1& 2 are in commercial operation.
Kakrapar 1 & 2	382.52 (July 1981) IDC	960.00+ 124.00	The project is nearing completion
Rajasthan 3 & 4	711.57 (Nov. 1986) IDC	1474.00+ 646.00	Latest estimates under review.
Kaiga 1 & 2	730.72 (June 1987)	Under revision	Expected to be about the same order as Rajasthan 3&4

(IDC—Interest During Construction)

The reasons for cost overrun are (i) escalation due to general increase in prices, (ii) increases in taxes and duties, (iii) increases in foreign exchange conversion rates and (iv) Changes in scope of work due to evolving safety standards and feed back from operating experience. Cost overruns were also as a result of time overruns due to efforts required in indigenous technology development in the context of the policy of self-reliance, and technology denial and restrictive practices by developed countries in the field.

(d) Standardisation of the designs to the extent feasible, advance action on long delivery and critical equipment, improving the extent of mechanisation in construction, reviewing of sequence of construction for reducing time and periodic monitoring and review at different levels are the steps taken towards containing time and cost overruns.

Import of Polymide Resins Films

4577. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Polymide resins films imported in the last three years and the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon alongwith details, yearwise;

(b) whether this is of strategic importance with wide application specially in electrical insulation of aeroplane-wire cables;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of research project in the country to manufacture it indigenously;

(e) whether Government are aware of the research project on this in the Indian I.I.T. Kharagpur, West Bengal requiring fund for going into pilot plant scale; and

(f) what steps taken to help such projects for import substitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The item 'Polyimide resin films' as such is not classifie under Indian Trade Classificat Rev-2 and Harmonised Commo Description and Coding System or basis of which Foreign Trade St tics of India are maintained. Tl fore, data showing import of 'imide resin films' is not availab

(b) and (c) Polyimide and related polyimide are of strategic importance. They find application in aircraft and automotive structures. These are ideally suited for use in electrical and electronics industries.

(d) and (f) VSSC, Trivandrum is reported to have developed laboratory scale process for the material. It is understood that based on VSSC process commercial plant for polyimide film is being set up at Hyderabad with the assistance of venture capital from TDICI, ICICI, etc.

IIT, Delhi and IIT Madras are reported to have done some basic research in the area.

(e) It is reported that IIT Kharagpur have produced on a laboratory scale polyimide resins and films with the properties comparable to those of samples imported.

IIT, Kharagpur reports such thing in professional journals and in all annual reports. Since the project costs are very large (Rs. 4 to 5 crores), Institute has not undertaken pilot scale projection.

Customs Duty on Erythromycin Thiocynate

4578. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reduced Customs Duty on import of various Drug intermediates;

(b) the rate of customs duty on import of Erythromycin Thiocynate (TIOC) 3-4 TMBA;

(c) the reasons for not reducing customs duty on TIOC; and

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The customs duty on raw materials/drug intermediates required for the production of bulk drugs/drug-intermediates has been reduced vide Ministry of Finance notification No. 250/92-Customs dated 31st July, 1992, and 215/92 and 217/92 both dated 19-6-1992.

(b) The Hon'ble Member is perhaps referring to drug intermediate Erythromycin Thiocynate (TIOC) and 3, 4, 5-TMBA. The current rate of customs duty on TIOC is 110 per cent and that on 3, 4, 5-TMBA is 70 per cent.

(c) and (d) Government had received some representations for reducing customs duty on TIOC, and the matter has already been referred to Ministry of Finance for their necessary action.

Legislation to control the price of drugs

4579. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that American Government are thinking of bringing a legislation to control the prices of drugs in view of exorbitant increases in prices inspite of free competition;

(b) if so, the reasons for liberalising when decontrol has resulted in steep increases in prices; and

(c) what were the pitfalls in 1987 policy which are sought to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Government is not aware of any steps being contemplated by the American Government in this regard.

(b) and (c) A background note on Review of Drug Policy, 1986 giving